
From: Jane Broussard <janebroussard2019@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 11:04 AM
To: House & Governmental Affairs; Marinovich, Lauren; s&ga@legis.la.gov
Subject: Redistricting Louisiana

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To Members of the House/Senate & Governmental Affairs Committees:

It is vital for representative democracy to truly be representative of the people who live in Louisiana. This includes giving a proportional voice to minorities and geographic communities of interest. Please consider the following:

In Louisiana, 40% of the population is minority, so it should be possible for a minority Congress person to be elected in at least 2 of the 6 districts. The districts should make this possible, not impossible.

In Jefferson Parish over 42% of the citizens are black, Latino, or another combination other than white. Their interests have not been represented in State Legislative Districts, and minority citizens in the parish were not given a voice. The State Legislative Districts should make this possible in Jefferson parish, not impossible.

The city of New Orleans increased by 40,000 since 2010. There needs to be a new state House seat in the city.

The Supreme Court Districts need to be drawn to give voice to minority citizens never proportionately represented in the highest court in the state.

Please take all of this into consideration while redistricting Louisiana.

Thank you,

Jane Broussard
Montz, Louisiana

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Jane Broussard

From: Jane Broussard <janebroussard2019@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 8:10 AM
To: House & Governmental Affairs; Marinovich, Lauren
Subject: Testimony for Redistricting Road Show

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

My name is Jane Broussard, I am from St. Charles Parish. I am unable to attend the public meetings because of COVID, but I would like to give my testimony as to why it is important to redistrict fairly. My grandmother was born at a time when women could not vote in this country. Women got the right to vote just in time for her 21st birthday, and she voted in every election in her community throughout the rest of her life. She instilled in our family the importance of voting. It is the most important right we have because it protects all of our other rights. In order for that to work though, all groups need to have their voice represented proportionately.

Black people are under-represented in Louisiana and that is in large part because of gerrymandered maps. Black people made up 33.1% of the population of Louisiana, but only had 16.6% of the representation in Congress., 29.5% representation in the state House, and 28.2% representation in the state Senate.

Gerrymandering has an affect on issues I care about such as equity in education and health care and making sure our roads and bridges are safe, among other things. Public education is set up to help all students (Brown v Board of Education), yet politicians have eroded public education in favor of charter schools which do not necessarily serve all students. People with disabilities can be excluded, and racial segregation can occur, too. Without gerrymandering, public interests are more likely to be served rather than political interests.

From 2014-2016, Louisiana refused to expand Medicaid eligibility which is part of the Affordable Care Act. Medicaid expansion was supported by the public, but was refused by former Governor Jindal and a state Senate panel. They did not listen to the public, and the people who would have benefitted suffered. They served political interests and not the people. The National Bureau of Economic Research estimates that Medicaid expansion saved close to 19,200 lives between 2014 and 2017. How many Louisiana lives were impacted by the refusal to expand Medicaid between 2014 and 2016?

The Infrastructure Bill that was passed in 2021 by Congress, was only supported by Congressman Troy Carter. In the 2017 Report Card for America's Infrastructure Louisiana roads scored a "D" and our bridges scored a "D+" with a comment that immediate action was necessary. We have bridges everywhere in Southeast Louisiana. Despite evidence that our infrastructure is crumbling, and public support for infrastructure improvement, five out of six Congressmen voted against it. If the districts were not gerrymandered, perhaps we would have representation of the peoples' voice and not political voices.

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act prohibits a state from using any "standard, practice, or procedure" that "results in denial or abridgment of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color". This means legally, we must have fair maps. We need additional majority-minority districts in order to ensure that minority groups are represented.

Please review the maps submitted by the public, and select one that ensures that districts are redrawn to represent minority voices fairly.

Sincerely,

Jane Broussard
Montz, Louisiana

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